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Ocean Park Civic League
P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach VA 23471

June 26, 2018

Chairman Kal Kassir
Bayfront Advisory Committee
115 Operations Building
2405 Courthouse Drive
Municipal Center
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-9040

Dear Chairman Kassir and Board Members:

Thank you for providing the Ocean Park Civic League an opportunity to respond to the Committee's 2018 outreach initiative.

Our board's discussion has been broad-based and involved serious reflection regarding the issues that impact the neighborhoods along the Shore Drive corridor. Focused areas of greatest concern include flooding and storm water management, quality of life in the neighborhood, personal safety, and the protection of personal property.

Please reach out if you have any questions or need clarification on any of the items presented. We appreciate all you do for the bayfront communities in the city of Virginia Beach.

Sincerely,

Andrew R. Broyles, President

Attachment

Ocean Park Civic League's request for help from Bayfront Advisory Committee Outreach 2018 Forum

1. Request the City of Virginia Beach (COVB) accelerate the Shore Drive Phase IV start date July 2018 to align with the completion of the Lesner Bridge reconstruction.

- The circa 1950 Shore Drive infrastructure is not up to any current standards for safety or storm water management.
- Shore Drive is a gateway for over 35% of the tourist traffic to the Oceanfront. A crumbled and insufficient thoroughfare provides a less than desirable first impression of our city.
- As the bridge construction comes to a completion, Ocean Park has endured the contingent traffic and construction noise that accompanies a project of this magnitude. Our desire is to have it all completed as soon as possible.
- Shore Drive has incurred and continues to incur significant road damage as a result of the construction and the increasingly heavy traffic in the Shore Drive corridor.
- Shore Drive beaches and restaurants are destinations for both residents and visitors, and the pedestrian and bicycle traffic has and will continue to increase during the summer season.
- There are only 2 crosswalks and few sidewalks to support pedestrian and bicycle traffic, which increases safety issues.

2. Request the City of Virginia Beach become a member community of the FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS.)

- The CRS is a voluntary FEMA program for NFIP-participating communities (National Flood Insurance Program). The goals of the CRS are to reduce flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management. The CRS provides incentives, in the form of premium discounts, for communities to go beyond the minimum floodplain management requirements and develop extra measures to provide protection from flooding. Current communities participating in CRS in our area include Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Hampton.
- The Ocean Park neighborhood is one of a number of areas in Virginia Beach that experiences flooding, both tidal and storm water, and has the potential to have some of this risk reduced through establishment of a more comprehensive storm water management system.

- Becoming a member community of CRS can also potentially enable residents to obtain discounted rates on flood insurance.
- This initiative ties directly to other initiatives related to storm water management that are of primary interest and concern for Ocean Park.

3. Storm water operations and maintenance for Ocean Park. Some identified issues include:

- Request the COVB identify all non-tidal wetland areas that are potentially developable within the Bayfront community and engage with the Army Corps of Engineers to re-affirm or change these designations. Changes may have occurred due to change in topography from flooding or storm events.
- Request the COVB identify and address storm water issues in the Woodlawn, White Dove, Sunvista area, and the Crab Creek outfall to determine if the current system needs to be replaced or repaired. This includes advising the community if check-valve or other options are available.
- Request the COVB correct the frequent operational failures of the storm water pump station on Powhatan Avenue.
- Request COVB help identify failed non-ADA compliant sidewalks that are essentially storm water management facilities and treat them as such.
- Request the COVB provide regular street cleaning to assist with keeping storm drains clean and determine if additional installation of impervious surfaces is needed near the storm drains. The absence of curbing and sidewalks in the area results in sand and debris frequently clogging the drainage system.
- Request the COVB modify the drain outlet west of the 7-11 Store at 3860 Shore Drive to allow water to drain from Shore Drive during heavy rains.
- Request that the COVB conduct a computer-generated CCW analysis for the Ocean Park areas that are impacted by storm water management issues.
- Request the COVB restrict future multi-family development to improve associated street with improved curb & gutter. Require developers to place engineered retaining walls where development or tear downs occur that impact surrounding neighbors. (Development Services Center (DSC) enforce existing codes/regulations regarding development.)
- Ocean Park experiences frequent high water and flooding during storms that may have minimal impact on other neighborhoods.
- Proposed development site west of the 7-11 Store at 3860 Shore Drive has terrain that has untypical landward buffers, has a large percentage of acreage that is salt water from high tide events, and is labeled as non-tidal wetlands.

- High tidal water enters outfall drains and floods nearby properties, including properties not adjacent to tidal water.
- Rain events have caused severe street flooding from the pump station which fails on a regular basis.
- Flooding of streets and houses occur when storm water pipes become non-functioning from leaves and organics swept into storm drains from rain events and flooding.
- The existing drain is too narrow and is almost always full of debris. This creates a pond of water at almost every rain event in front and to west of the 7-11 entrance on Shore Drive.
- A number of these issues can be mitigated by a comprehensive approach to storm water management, including correction of existing drainage issues, a systematic maintenance schedule, and ensuring that systems already in place are operational.
- Infill development occurs often in Ocean Park, and most lots have narrow side and rear yards that are not directing storm water to public drainage facilities. Due to the filling of property that has inadequate or missing retaining walls, neighbors are enduring storm water runoff to their property from infill developments.
- Mini condo-cluster developments are constructed without dedicated storm drain basins, and water is flushed down streets that do not have storm water control measures such as curbs and gutters.

4. Request the COVB install the planned pedestrian crosswalk at the Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad on Shore Drive and East Stratford Road – CIP. 2.300.119.

- This project was slated to begin in January 2017 and to be completed in July 2017.
- No construction work has begun on this project to date.
- There is 6/10 mile between crosswalks in Ocean Park on Shore Drive.
- According to CIP Page: “Current Status and Progress 90% design submittal is anticipated in July. Last updated: 05/03/2017 09:41:42 AM”

5. Request the COVB support the Ocean Park Civic League in their restoration of the Tazewell triangle area.

- Three live oak trees were removed from this property by COVB.
- Debris from stump grinding has been left on the property since Fall 2016.
- Residents have been maintaining this property for over 30 years.

- This area is a gateway to Brock Environmental Center (BEC) and something unique & educational should be installed there inspired by the work done at BEC.

6. Request the COVB expand city ordinances to prevent commercial vehicle parking along B-2 zoned streets that serve as entrances to a residential community. Further request the City to evaluate all of Ocean Park for potential additional parking restrictions. Particularly during the summer season, visitors are parking on corners and in areas that restrict emergency vehicle access to portions of the neighborhood and create unnecessary hazards at intersections.

- Commercial vehicles, school buses, and unattached commercial trailers have begun parking along the east and west side of Lynnhaven Marine (located at 3785 Shore Drive) causing hazardous driving conditions for residents entering and exiting Ocean Park.
- In the summer season, some streets become impassable for emergency vehicles because parking is currently allowed on both sides of narrow streets. This is not an issue on streets where parking is restricted to one side of the street.
- Most corners do not contain any signage restricting how close to the corner vehicles may park, and without curbs and sidewalks it may be difficult for some drivers to determine how close to the intersection they should park.

7. Request the COVB install bike racks at the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp & Beach Facility: at kayak launch, near the beach entrance and on: East Stratford Road near the seawall at beach access where space allows and at Pleasure House Point: 2 trailheads on Marlin Bay.

- Many people cycle in the Bayfront community with very limited infrastructure.
- All of these areas are viable and busy locations for bicycle users.

8. Request the City of Virginia Beach eliminate the proposed Dredge Material Transfer Station and expand the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp & Beach Facility (LBRBF) with additional lanes of boat and trailer parking. This would also include repairing the shoreline of the former sand storage area to assist in reducing the number of times Crab Creek has to be dredged.

- Request a public hearing about the Lesner Municipal Wharf with The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Request a public hearing about the Lesner Municipal Wharf with Army Corp of Engineers
- Request the City of Virginia Beach Maintain an open dialogue with the Ocean Park Civic League of all actions, discussions and document disclosures as related to the potential uses for the Lesner Municipal Wharf.

- In our opinion, a dredge material transfer station is not needed.
- History has shown that it is less expensive for neighborhoods to create haul routes from within their own property as opposed to barging material to Lynnhaven Boat Ramp.
- The transfer station causes potentially dangerous conflicts with the boating, fishing and recreational beach users in this area.
- The planned overlook and “The Canoes” sculpture for the new eastbound Lesner Bridge would have an unsightly backdrop of a transfer station.
- The Lynnhaven Boat Ramp is heavily used for recreational fishing boats and pleasure craft.
- It currently does not have enough parking and is forcing towed boats to be lined up on the streets of Ocean Park waiting for space to enter the launch facility.
- This results in blocked driveways and reduced visibility for residents who live on these streets, and a number of boaters endure long wait periods or abandon their plans to launch.
- OPCL supports the establishment of Osprey Point Park LBRBF.
- OPCL supports the establishment of the Lynnhaven River Now Aquaculture Center LBRBF.
- The LMW is a dramatic impact to the residents of Ocean Park, an incompatible mixed use with a high quality and popular boating and beach facility and has a high potential to easily become environmental and safety impact to the entire Bayfront area.

9. Request the Bayfront Advisory Commission champion efforts to create a replacement ordinance for developers within the Bayfront communities that requires the replacement of live oaks removed for development, and requires that they provide adequate room on the property to do so.

- Currently there are no ordinances to protect the live oak.
- These trees are natural to the area and do not require special maintenance.
- Further, they are vital to reduce damage to property during storms and their canopies are critical to reducing heat radiation from the currently allowed density of rooftops and driveways.

10. Request COVB Police increase exposure and enforcement of existing laws in Ocean Park, and its related beaches

- Of late and discussed at length on social media, there has been a significant increase in:
 - Auto larceny;
 - Illegal car parking on neighborhood streets and off street in yards;
 - Unsafe boating/personal watercraft (jet ski) usage along the shoreline;
 - Golf cart operations on and beyond the dunes;
 - Dogs off leash and on the beach during restricted hours.